

**PAPER FSAW 16/09/03
FOR DISCUSSION
UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper provides a brief summary of issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held in July 2016. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/>. This paper also provides an update on issues of relevance to Wales and forms the basis of the update to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee.
2. The Director will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.
3. Members are invited to:
 - **note** the Board discussions
 - **invite** the Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

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1. Summary of Chief Executive's report to open Board meeting 13 July 2016.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 16/07/03) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160703.pdf>

2. Director for Wales report on matters pertaining to Wales

External engagement

2.1 I have been involved in the following engagement opportunities since WFAC last met on 7 July 2016:-

- 8 August – met with representatives from DPPW to discuss their report 'In Safe Hands' and also Regulating Our Future.
- 9 August – visited the FSA stand at Anglesey Show.
- 10 August – visit to Anglesey County Council and The Lobster Pot food business.

Smoked Skin on Sheep

2.2 FSA Wales hosted a workshop in July to explore the next steps for the work on smoked skin on sheep following the completion of the desk study by Liverpool University. Delegates at the workshop ranged from industry representatives, trade associations, government and academia. Feedback from delegates revealed that there was overwhelming support for the work to continue. They also agreed that an industry led consortium should drive the next phase of this work: demonstrating a method of production where there was no increased risk to public health.

2.3 The National Sheep Association is to provide the chair for the industry led coalition and the first meeting will take place on Friday 16th September in the FSA offices in Cardiff. Members of the group include Welsh Government, Hybu Cig Cymru, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, National Farmers' Union Cymru, Farmers' Union Wales and an industry representative. The FSA will be part of the group but will no longer lead the work to gather evidence to support a case for change. We will contribute to the evidence gathering in areas that fall to our remit, for example slaughterhouse operating procedures. The FSA will now be focusing its efforts on gathering science and information evidence to support the consumer messaging alongside any enforcement role.

The executive summary of the desk study can be downloaded here
https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/executivesummaryfs102128_0.pdf

Communications with Local Authorities

2.4 Over the last nine months we have been working to improve the way we at FSA Wales communicate with local authority Directors of Public Protection, managers and officers involved in delivering food and feed official controls. Following a successful pilot with 8 local authorities, in July a new communication system was rolled out across all 22 local authorities in Wales. As a result of this project, information, including food alerts and enforcement updates are more effectively communicated to local authority officers. Now they receive our communications in their preferred language (Welsh or English) and are able to subscribe to information which is relevant to their area of work. The new system is provided via a web based platform. 88% of users of the new system have expressed their satisfaction compared to 44% previously.

2.5 Details of recent successful food standards, food hygiene and food safety related prosecutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2015/14644/food-standards-agency-publishes-food-law-prosecutions-database>

3. Forward Look

3.1 Between now and the next meeting of the WFAC on 17 November 2016, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:-

- 22 September – FSA/Welsh Government liaison meeting.

Nina Purcell
Director, FSA Wales

September 2016